

a second set of data input port connectors mounted on the exterior of said housing, for connection to one or more object attribute data generating sources and capable of receiving object attribute data elements from said one or more object attribute data generating sources using said networking protocol; and

a data element queuing, handling, processing and linking mechanism operably connected to said first and second data input ports, for enabling the automatic queuing, handling, processing, and linking of each input object identification data element, with one or more object attribute data elements linked thereto, to produce a combined data element and transporting ~~the~~ each combined data ~~elements~~ element to a database subsystem operably connected to said data communication network for storage and subsequent retrieval.

Claim 670 (currently amended): The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 669, which further comprises:

a computing platform including a microprocessor, a system bus, an associated memory architecture and operating system software, and networking software;

a network controller card operably connected to said microprocessor for supporting high-speed data communications using one or more networking protocols;

a network connection port for establishing a network connection between said network controller card and said communication medium to which ~~the~~ said object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system is connected; and

a networking hub operably connected to said first and second sets of data input port connectors, said network connection port, and said network controller card, so that all data input port connectors connected through said networking hub can send and receive data packets and support high-speed digital data communications.

Claim 671 (previously presented): The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 670, wherein said associated memory architecture comprises a hard-drive, RAM, ROM and cache memory.

Claim 672 (previously presented): The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 670, wherein said one or more networking protocols are selected from the group consisting of Ethernet, Firewire, and USB.

Claim 673 (previously presented): The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 669, wherein said object identification data generating device is selected from the group consisting of a bar code reader and an RFID reader.

Claim 674 (currently amended): The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 669, wherein said object attribute data generating source is selected from the group consisting of an LDIP Subsystem, a PLIIM-based imager, an x-ray scanner, a neutron beam scanner, a MRI scanner and a QRA scanner.

Claim 675 (currently amended): The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 670, which further comprises:

- a visual display panel integrated with said ~~system~~ housing, and interfaced with said computing platform; and

- a manually-actuatable keypad integrated with said housing and interfaced with said computing platform.

Claim 676 (previous presented): The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 669, wherein said object identity data elements comprises passenger identification data inputs; and wherein said object attribute data comprises passenger attribute data elements and baggage attribute data elements.

Claim 677 (currently amended): An object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system for connection to the communication medium of a data communication network, said object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system comprising:

- a housing;

- a computing platform including a microprocessor, system bus, an associated memory architecture and operating system software, and networking software;

- a network controller card operably connected to said microprocessor for supporting high-speed data communications using one or more networking protocols;

- a first set of data input port connectors mounted on the exterior of said housing, for connection to one or more object identification data generating sources and capable of receiving object identity data elements from said one or more object identification data generating sources using a networking protocol, wherein said object identification data generating ~~source~~ sources are disposed external to said housing;

a second set of data input port connectors mounted on the exterior of said housing, for connection to one or more object attribute data generating sources and capable of receiving object attribute data elements from said one or more object attribute data generating sources using said networking protocol;

a network connection port for establishing a network connection between said network controller card and said communication medium to which ~~the~~ said object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system is connected;

data element queuing, handling, processing and linking software stored on said associated memory architecture, for enabling the automatic queuing, handling, processing, linking and transporting each input object identification data element, and one or more object attribute data elements linked thereto, to a database subsystem operably connected to said data communication network for storage and subsequent retrieval; and

a networking hub operably connected to said first and second sets of data input port connectors, said network connection port, and said network controller card, so that all data input port connectors connected through said networking hub can send and receive data packets and support high-speed digital data communications.

Claim 678 (previously presented): The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 677, wherein said associated memory architecture comprises a hard-drive, RAM, ROM and cache memory.

Claim 679 (previously presented): The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 677, wherein said one or more networking protocols are selected from the group consisting of Ethernet, Firewire, and USB.

Claim 680 (previously presented): The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 677, wherein said object identification data generating device is selected from the group consisting of a bar code reader and an RFID reader.

Claim 681 (currently amended): The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 677, wherein said object attribute data generating source is selected from the group consisting of an LDIP Subsystem, a PLIIM-based imager, an x-ray scanner, a neutron beam scanner, a MRI scanner and a QRA scanner.

Claim 682 (currently amended): The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 677, which further comprises:

- a visual display panel integrated with said ~~system~~ housing, and interfaced with said computing platform; and

- a manually-actuatable keypad integrated with said housing and interfaced with said computing platform.

Claim 683 (previously presented): The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 677, wherein said object identity data elements comprises passenger identification data inputs; and wherein said object attribute data comprises passenger attribute data elements and baggage attribute data elements.

Claim 684 (currently amended): An object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system for connection to the communication medium of a data communication network, said object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system comprising:

- a housing;

- a first set of programmable data input ports provided through the exterior of said housing, for connection to one or more object identification data generating sources and capable of receiving object identity data elements from said one or more object identification data generating sources using a networking protocol, wherein said object identification data generating ~~source~~ sources are disposed external to said housing;

- a second set of programmable data input ports provided through the exterior of said housing, for connection to one or more object attribute data generating sources and capable of receiving object attribute data elements from said one or more object attribute data generating sources using said networking protocol; and

- a data element queuing, handling, processing and linking mechanism, in operable association with said first and second programmable data input ports, for enabling the automatic queuing, handling, processing, linking and transporting of each input object identification data element, and one or more object attribute data elements linked thereto, to a database subsystem operably connected to said data communication network for storage and subsequent retrieval.

Claim 685 (currently amended): The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 684, which further comprises:

a computing platform including a microprocessor, system bus, an associated memory architecture and operating system software, and networking software;

a network controller card operably connected to said microprocessor for supporting high-speed data communications using one or more networking protocols;

a network connection port for establishing a network connection between said network controller card and said communication medium to which ~~the~~ said object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system is connected; and

a networking hub operably connected to said first and second sets of data input port connectors, said network connection port, and said network controller card, so that all data input port connectors connected through said networking hub can send and receive data packets and support high-speed digital data communications.

Claim 686 (previously presented): The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 685, wherein said associated memory architecture comprises a hard-drive, RAM, ROM and cache memory.

Claim 687 (previously presented): The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 685, wherein said one or more networking protocols are selected from the group consisting of Ethernet, Firewire, and USB.

Claim 688 (previously presented): The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 684, wherein said object identification data generating device is selected from the group consisting of a bar code reader and an RFID reader.

Claim 689 (currently amended): The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 684, wherein said object attribute data generating source is selected from the group consisting of an LDIP Subsystem, a PLIIM-based imager, an x-ray scanner, a neutron beam scanner, a MRI scanner and a QRA scanner.